



International Participation in NASA's Discovery Program

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NASA International Participation Policy Guidelines

- **International participation is encouraged**
- **International participation must be on a cooperative, no-exchange-of-funds basis; foreign partner must cover its own costs**
- **NASA does not fund foreign research, but contracting for foreign goods/services acceptable within existing USG foreign procurement regulations**
 - Russia a unique case: Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000
- **Use of foreign launch vehicles: National Space Transportation Policy**



International Participation— Important Factors

- **Should demonstrate scientific and technical merit of the cooperation**
- **Should demonstrate a specific benefit to NASA**
- **Each side needs to fund its own responsibilities but the contributions need not be equivalent (quid pro quo does not have to be of equal monetary value)**
- **Minimize management and technical complexity through “clean interfaces”**
- **Foreign contributions should be significant (helps to demonstrate the benefits of the cooperation)**
- **Should be structured to protect against unwarranted technology transfer (joint technology development can result in export control violations)**

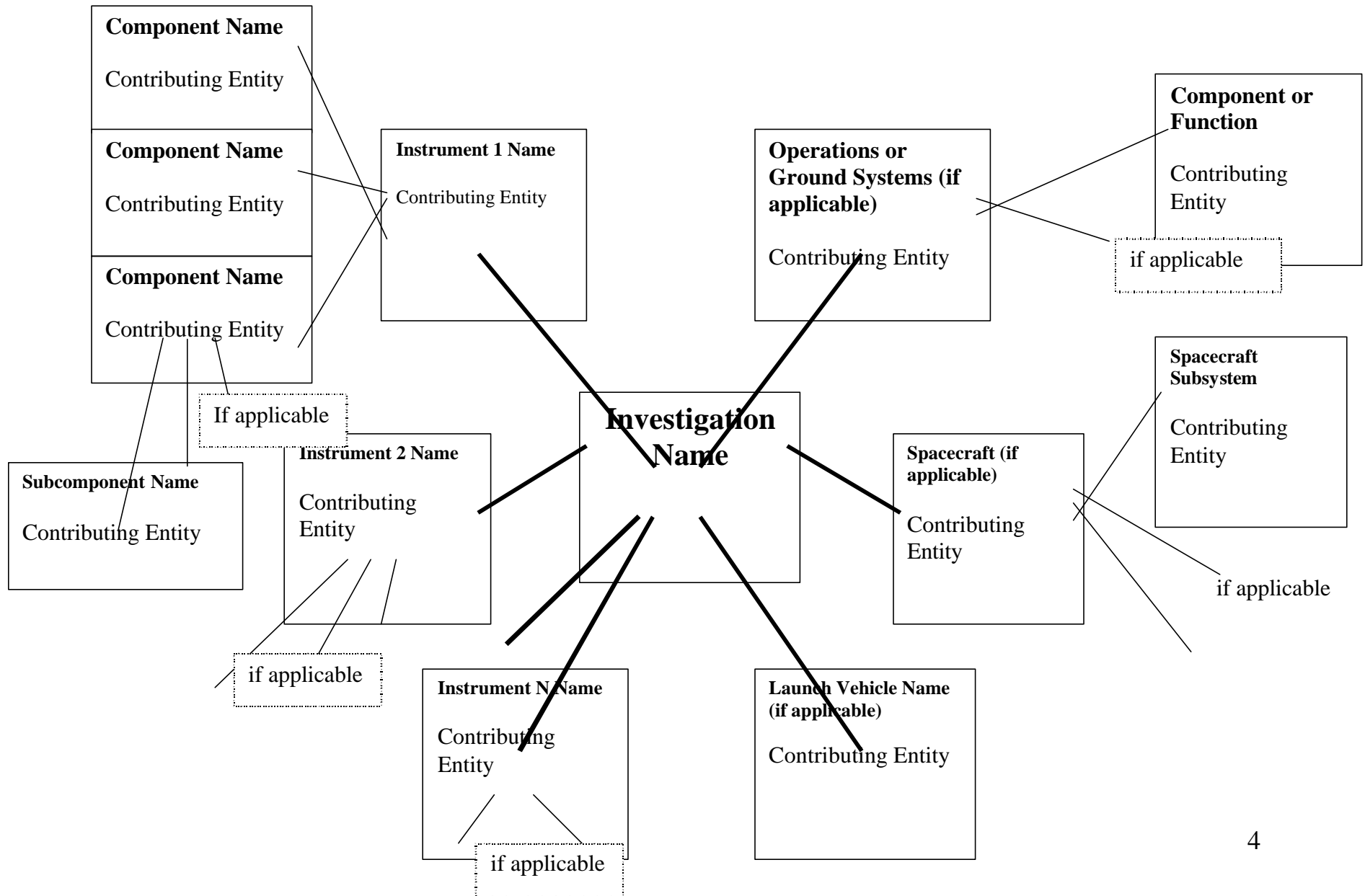


Important Documents

- **Strong endorsement letter from each foreign partner agency or institution needed as part of proposal**
- **If selected, the cooperative project will be documented in a written, specific, binding agreement between NASA and its foreign partner agency/institution (usually governmental)**
 - Agreements in the form of Letters of Agreement (LOAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
 - Department of State and USG interagency review required
 - Agreement needs to be concluded before international exchanges of data or goods occur
 - Agreement should be drafted as soon as possible after final selection
 - Agreement drafting, coordination, and negotiation may take from 3 months to more than 1 year



Clean Interfaces





Role of the Office of External Relations (Code I)

- **During proposal review process, Code I will provide guidance to the Office of Space Science on proposals regarding:**
 - The simplicity/complexity of the international participation
 - Any export control/technology transfer concerns
 - The number and type of agreements that may be necessary
- **After project selection, Code I has lead responsibility for drafting, negotiating and concluding all necessary international agreements**
- **Code I in coordination with Code S will consult with international counterparts should an issue with the cooperation arise (such as budget difficulties, etc.)**
 - The research team should continue to coordinate at the technical and scientific level and resolve any technical/scientific difficulties
 - The team should contact the Discovery Program Executive/Program Scientist on major issues; Code S will then contact Code I



International Cooperation in the Vision

- **Vision directs NASA to meet international commitments on ISS**
- **Vision directs NASA to “pursue opportunities for international participation to support space exploration goals”**
 - “A journey, not a race”
- **Vision will incorporate traditional U.S. principles for international cooperation:**
 - Must serve mutually beneficial programmatic exploration goals
 - Supports broader foreign policy objectives
- **Expect a mix of bilateral and multilateral cooperation**
 - NASA will look at innovative ways of cooperation, both with traditional partners and potential new partners



Summary

- **International participation is encouraged both traditionally and in the President's Vision for U.S. Space Exploration**
- **International participation is guided by NASA and USG policies that involve benefit to NASA, need for clean interfaces, exchange of funds, research grants, and launch vehicles**
- **Code I is ready to help**
 - <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codei>